Modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant

1609. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant is completed;

(b) if not, how much time and money will be required for the same;

(c) how much time and money was required for the completion of original plant; and

(d) what are the production figures for the years 1994-95; and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Government have approved the Bokaro Steel Plant (Stage I) Modernisation at an estimated cost of Rs. 1792.90 crores with the commissioning schedule of July, 1997.

(c) The construction work of Bokaro Steel Plant (original — 1.7 MT) started in April 1968 was progressively completed between October, 1972 (commissioning of first Blast Furnace) and February, 1978 (commissioning of third and last Blast Furnace) at a cost of Rs. 981.34 crores.

(d) The production of saleable steel by this Steel Plant during the last two years is as follows:

	(In million tonnes)
1994-95	3.17
1995-96	3.33

Pre-feasibility Report on Exploration of CBM

1610. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pre-feasibility report was submitted to SAIL by ONGC with the proposal to form joint venture company to explore Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Parbatpur Mahal-Sitanala area of Dhanbad district in Bihar;

(b) if so, when it was submitted and the response of SAIL;

(c) whether any private party has recently submitted a similar offer; and

(d) if so, whether they have similar expertise as ONGC in CBM exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) SAIL had received a proposal to form joint venture company to explore Coal Bed Methane (CBM) from the ONGC in early 1996, and also from a private company subsequently.

The Screening Committee, functioning in the Ministry of Coal, had identified certain coal mining blocks including *Sitanala, Mahal and Parbatpur in Jharia* Coalfields for captive development by SAIL. SAIL's primary interest in these blocks was for coking coal. After further studies SAIL found the geo-mining conditions to be difficult and communicated their disinterest in the exploitation for mining purposes in these blocks to the Ministry of Coal. Having given up the interest in these blocks SAIL did not take further action on the above mentioned two proposals.

Contract for Import of Coal

1611. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Vizag Steel Plant has awarded a contract for importing coal to an Australian Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether global tenders were invited for the purchase of the coal;

(d) if so, the names of the firm who submitted tenders alongwith the rates quoted by each; and

(e) if not, the reasons for placing the order on the above mentioned company?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a)

and (b) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has entered into long term contracts with 5 Australian companies for supply of Low Ash Metallurgical Coking Coal to meet 70—80% of its annual requirement. In addition, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant also purchased coal from the same companies at the same prices as per their requirement.

(c) and (d) Global tenders were invited by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in 1995-96. 13 companies had responded of which 7 companies from China were disqualified since their offers were not according to the specifications. The offers from the remaining companies from Australia were as follows:

SUPPLIER	COAL	QUANTITY (T)	PRICE QUOTED (FOB/T) $
A. ESTABLISHED COAL:			
1. BHP	HAYPOINT	500,000	53.05
	TORRINGTON	200,000	54.10
	ILLAWARA	140,000	53.26
		65,000	52.86
2. CLUTHA	WOLLONDILLY (BRIMESTONE 'A')	260,000	54.00
3. MIM	QAKY CREEK	500,000	54.90
4. SHELL	GERMAN CREE VBB	200,000	54.75
5. ARCO	ARCO BLEND	180,000	53.80
	TOTAL:	2,045,000	
B. NEW COALS:			
1. BHP	HAYPOINT B	200,000	52.80
2. MIM	COLLINSVILLE	150,000	51.90
3. GLENCORD	COOK COKING COAL	100,000	54.50
	TOTAL:	450,000	

The weighted average price offered by the above companies was coming to US$ 53.79 per MT on FOB(T) load port basis. Since it was considered to be very high, the Board of Directors of the Company decided to go for long term agreements in order to ensure certain committed quantities as well as competitive price.

(e) Does not arise in view of replies to parts (a) to (d) above.

इस्पात क्षेत्र में भारत के साथ व्यापार

1612. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान किन-किन देशों ने भारत के साथ इस्पात क्षेत्र में व्यापार बढ़ाने में रुचि दिखाई है;

(ख) क्या उक्त अवधि के दौरान इन देशों के साथ कोई समझौता किया गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में किन-किन देशों को इस्पात का निर्यात किया जाएगा और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद